

tree by its roots. Our particular principles of religion are a subject of accountability to one God alone. I inquire after no man's, and trouble none with mine; nor is it given to us in this life to know whether yours or mine, our friends or our foes, are exactly the right. Nay, we have heard it said that there is not a Quaker or a Baptist, a Presbyterian or an Episcopalian, a Catholic or a Protestant in heaven; that, on entering¹ that gate, we leave those badges of schism behind, and find ourselves united in those principles only in which God has united us all. Let us not be uneasy then about the different roads we may pursue, as believing them the shortest, to that our last abode; but, following the guidance of a good conscience, let us be happy in the hope that by these different paths we shall all meet in the end. (To. Miles King, 1814. C. VI., 388.)

RELIGION.—For it is in our lives and not from our words, that our religion must be read. By the same test the world must judge me. But this does not satisfy the priesthood. They must have a positive, a declared assent to all their interest absurdities. My opinion is that there would never have been an infidel, if there never had been a priest. The artificial structures they have built on the purest of all moral systems, for the purpose of deriving from it pence and power, revolts those who think for themselves and who read in that system only what is really there. These, therefore, they brand with such nicknames as their enmity devises gratuitously to* impute. I have left the world, in silence, to judge of causes from their effects; and I am consoled in this course, my dear friend, when I perceive the candor with which I am judged by your justice and discernment; and but, notwithstanding the slanders of the saints, my fellow citizens, have thought me worthy of trusts. The imputations of irreligion having spent their force, they think an imputation of change might now be turned to account as a bolster for their duperies. I shall leave them, as heretofore, to grope on in the dark. (To Mrs. Harrison Smith, 1816. C. VII., 28.)

RELIGION.—See Christianity.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.—I am really mortified to be told that, in